

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:XGVUNOVIC;PM

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S:O:DLMACK

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O 230456Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 017377 TOSEC 010184

EXDIS TO SECRETARY FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EAID

SUBJECT: INFORMING ISRAELIS OF OUR FY 1977 ASSISTANCE

FIGURES

REF: STATE 15453 (TOSEC 10105)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR AUTHORIZATION, I CALLED DINITZ ON JAN 22 AND INFORMED HIM THAT ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO REQUEST CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ISRAEL THE FOLLOWING FY 1977 ASSISTANCE: DOLS 1 BILLION IN FMS, DOLS 785 MILLION IN SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, DOLS 9 MILLION IN PL-480, AND DOLS 25 MILLION IN HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTEES. I OUTLINED THE REASONS FOR OUR DECISION USING TALKING POINTS REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. DINITZ'S INITIAL REACTION, WHICH HE THOUGHT RABIN AND ALLON WOULD SHARE, WAS ONE OF SEVERE DISAPPOINTMENT WITH REDUCTION IN FMS PROGRAM FROM DOLS 1.5 BILLION PROPOSED FOR FY 1976 TO DOLS 1 BILLION PLANNED FOR FY 1977. HE NOTED THAT THIS IS A DRASTIC CUT GIVEN THAT ISRAEL'S MILITARY REQUIREMENTS ARE INCREASING FOR REASONS WELL

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KNOWN TO US. DINITZ ADDED THAT ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS

CAUSED BY THE FMS REDUCTION IN FY 1977 WOULD BE INTENSIFIED BY THE NEED TO PLAN TO STRETCH THESE CREDITS OVER A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN MONTHS RATHER THAN THE NORMAL YEAR BECAUSE WE ARE NOT REQUESTING SEPARATE ASSISTANCE FOR THE INTERIM QUARTER BUT RATHER SUBSUMING IT IN THE FY 1977 REQUEST.

3. DINITZ PROMISED TO REPORT THE U.S. POSITION TO JERUSALEM IMMEDIATELY, NOTING THAT HE HAD ALREADY SENT AN INCOMPLETE REPORT BASED ON PUBLICATION BY OMB YESTERDAY OF THE DOLS 1 BILLION FY 1977 PLANNING FIGURE FOR FMS FOR ISRAEL IN APPENDIX OF U.S. FY 1977 BUDGET. SISCO

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